

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3905

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: NEW LITTLE RED BOOK

REF: HONG KONG 1761

1. THE "LITTLE RED BOOK" OF MAO QUOTES, WAVED BY RED GUARDS IN THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, MAY HAVE A SOBER REPLACEMENT IN THE COLLECTED QUOTES OF MARX, ENGELS, AND LENIN (M-E-L) ON PROLETARIAN DICTATORSHIP PUBLISHED JOINTLY BY PEOPLE'S DAILY AND RED FLAG FEBRUARY 22. IT IS PROBABLY NO COINCIDENCE THAT THE NEW COLLECTION NUMBERS 33 QUOTES, EXACTLY THE NUMBER OF CHAPTERS IN THE ORIGINAL "QUOTATIONS FROM CHAIRMAN MAO TSETUNG." EVEN THE NUMBER OF WORDS, 10,000, IS APPROXIMATELY THE SAME.

2. TIME WILL TELL WHAT THIS RETURN TO ORTHODOXY AND FURTHER DOWNGRADING OF MAO THOUGHT MEANS (REF A). AT PRESENT THE MOVE IS CLEARLY MAO'S INITIATIVE, AND THE JOINT EDITORIAL NOTE
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ACCOMPANYING THE M-E-L QUOTES, LIKE A PREFACE, CITES FOUR

MAO QUOTATIONS ON DICTATORSHIP, LED OFF BY HIS RECENT DICTUM ABOUT THE NEED TO STUDY LENIN'S WRITINGS ON THE SUBJECT. (THE LAST OF THESE QUOTES IS NEWLY IDENTIFIED AS COMING FROM MAO AND WARNS ABOUT PEOPLE LIKE LIN PIAO COMING TO POWER IF MARXISM-Leninism IS NOT PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD.)

3. THE COLLECTED M-E-L QUOTES, FROM OUR INITIAL READING OF THEM IN THE HONG KONG COMMUNIST PRESS, CONVEY A MESSAGE AIMED AT IMPROVING DISCIPLINE AND, BEYOND THAT, AT INCREASING PRODUCTION. THREE LENIN QUOTES COME FROM HIS WORK "LEFT-WING COMMUNISM, AN INFANTILE DISORDER" (MENTIONED FOR THE FIRST TIME ON INNER MONGOLIA RADIO FEBRUARY 20), AND WE WOULD GUESS THIS IS A PARTICULAR WARNING TO THE LEFT. THE LEFT MAY ALSO BE THE TARGET OF QUOTE NUMBER 25, WHICH HINTS AT A RECTIFICATION OF PARTY MEMBERSHIP WITH EMPHASIS ON QUALITY RATHER THAN NUMBERS. THE 10TH PARTY CONGRESS IN 1973 REVEALED THAT THE PARTY HAD SWELLED TO 28 MILLION MEMBERS, AND THE BULK OF THAT INFLUX WOULD HAVE COME FROM THE ACTIVISTS OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. IN VIEW OF THE REHABILITATION OF VETERAN CADRES WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE SINCE THE FALL OF LIN PIAO IN 1971, WE WOULD GUESS THAT IT IS THE LEFT (AND THE YOUNG) WHO ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE CULLED FROM MEMBERSHIP, IF IT COMES TO THAT.

4. THE JOINT EDITORIAL NOTE AND COLLECTION OF QUOTES APPEARS ROUGHLY TWO WEEKS AFTER THE FEBRUARY 9 EDITORIAL LAUNCHED THE "DICTATORSHIP" CAMPAIGN (HONG KONG 1479) AND THIS IS THE SAME INTERVAL BETWEEN PRONOUNCEMENTS WHICH WAS OBSERVED AT THE OUTSET OF THE ANTI-LIN/CONFUCIUS MOVEMENT LAST YEAR. THE CAMPAIGN IS STILL IN THE STUDY PHASE AND WE WOULD EXPECT SOME DISCUSSION YET TO COME ABOUT THE ORGANS OF DICTATORSHIP--THE COURTS, POLICE, MILITARY, AND THE MOLITIA. WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING YET ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN'S PRACTICAL EFFECTS, BUT PROPAGANDA HAS MADE CLEAR THAT INCREASED PRODUCTION IS TO BE THE MEASURE OF PERFORMANCE.

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